

## **Safe Kids/Safe Streets Program**

**Safe Kids/Safe Streets—Community Approaches To Reducing Abuse and Neglect and Preventing Delinquency** is a five and ½ year demonstration program. The purpose of this program is to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later juvenile or adult criminality, and to reduce child and adolescent abuse and neglect and resulting child fatalities. It strives to do this by providing fiscal and technical support for local efforts to restructure and strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice systems to be more comprehensive and proactive in helping children and adolescents and their families. The program also has as a goal to implement or strengthen coordinated management of abuse and neglect cases by improving policy, practice and information sharing among the criminal and juvenile justice systems and the child welfare, family services, and related systems. These goals require communities to develop, implement and/or expand cross-agency strategies and to partner with natural network stakeholders.

In 1997, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), administering agency for the **Safe Kids/Safe Streets** program, initially awarded competitive cooperative agreements using its funds and funds from the Violence Against Women Office and the Executive Office for Weed and Seed to five demonstration sites and a national evaluator. The awards ranged from \$125,000 to \$925,000 per year for the sites, and \$330,000 to the national evaluator. Awards were made under a 5 ½ year project period, and have been supplemented three to four times, depending upon the site.

The site grantees are: The National Children's Advocacy Center, Huntsville, Alabama; the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan; Heart of America United Way of Kansas City, Missouri; Toledo Hospital Children's Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; and the Community Network for Children, Youth and Family Services of Chittenden County, Vermont. Each represents a community-wide, public-private collaborative and includes "non traditional" stakeholders such as the business and faith communities and families served by the system. The national evaluator is Westat, Inc. of Rockville, MD.

The sites are in various stages of implementation. Elements common to all or most sites include: home visitation programs; Children's Advocacy Center programs or multi disciplinary investigation teams; neighborhood-based services; juvenile sex offender treatment programs; court reform; coordination between domestic violence and child abuse services; and expanded family strengthening services. The national evaluator is well into the process of documenting planning and assessment processes, working with the sites to develop measurement variables and piloting components of the impact evaluation.

Bulleted information:

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- Purpose is to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later juvenile or adult criminality, and to reduce child and adolescent abuse and neglect and resulting child fatalities.
- Strategies to achieve are based on providing fiscal and technical support for local efforts to:
  - restructure and strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice systems to be more comprehensive and proactive in helping children and adolescents and their families;
  - implement or strengthen coordinated management of abuse and neglect cases by improving policy and practice of the criminal and juvenile justice systems and the child

welfare, family services, and related systems

- These require communities to develop, implement and/or expand cross-agency strategies and to partner with natural network stakeholders.

- Initial awards were made by OJJDP in 1997.

- Safe Kids/Safe Streets is an inter-agency program. Other funding agencies are: the Violence Against Women Office and the Executive Office for Weed and Seed. Additionally, training and technical assistance support was provided by OVC , BJA and BJS.

- Awards were initially made to five demonstration sites and a national evaluator under a 5 ½ year project period, and have been supplemented two to four times, depending upon the site. Subsequent awards have been made to support training and technical assistance provision and coordination to the sites.

- The site grantees are: The National Children's Advocacy Center, Huntsville, Alabama; the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan; Heart of America United Way of Kansas City, Missouri; Toledo Hospital Children's Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; and the Community Network for Children, Youth and Family Services of Chittenden County, Vermont.- Each represents a community-wide, public-private collaborative. The national evaluator is Westat, Inc. of Rockville, MD.

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